

Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

§ 271.4

whereby State agencies may verify the validity of documents provided by aliens applying for food stamp benefits by obtaining information from a central data file.

Thrifty food plan means the diet required to feed a family of four persons consisting of a man and a woman 20 through 50, a child 6 through 8, and a child 9 through 11 years of age, determined in accordance with the Secretary's calculations. The cost of such diet shall be the basis for uniform allotments for all households regardless of their actual composition. In order to develop maximum food stamp allotments, the Secretary shall make household size and other adjustments in the Thrifty Food Plan taking into account economies of scale and other adjustments as required by law.

Trafficking means the buying or selling of coupons, ATP cards or other benefit instruments for cash or consideration other than eligible food; or the exchange of firearms, ammunition, explosives, or controlled substances, as defined in section 802 of title 21, United States Code, for coupons.

Underissuance means the amount by which the allotment to which the household was entitled exceeds the allotment which the household received.

Underissuance error rate. (See *Underpayment error rate*.)

Underpayment error rate means the ratio of the value of allotments underissued to recipient households to the total value of allotments issued in a fiscal year by a State agency.

Universe means all units for which information is desired.

Variance means the incorrect application of policy and/or a deviation between the information that was used to authorize the sample month issuance and the verified information that should have been used to calculate the sample month issuance.

Wholesale food concern means an establishment which sells eligible food to retail food stores or to meal services for resale to households.

[Amdt. 132, 43 FR 47882, Oct. 17, 1978]

EDITORIAL NOTE: For FEDERAL REGISTER citations affecting § 271.2, see the List of CFR Sections Affected, which appears in the Finding Aids section of the printed volume and on GPO Access.

§ 271.3 Delegations to FNS for administration.

(a) *Delegation.* Within the Department, FNS acts on behalf of the Department in the administration of the Food Stamp Program with the exception of those functions, which may be delegated to other agencies within the Department. The right is reserved at any time to withdraw, modify, or amend any delegation of authority. When authority is delegated to FNS, the responsibilities may be carried out by the Administrator or by another official of FNS, or by State agencies with respect to claims against households, as designated.

(b) *Claims settlement.* FNS shall have the power to determine the amount of and to settle and adjust any claim arising under the provisions of the act or this subchapter, and to compromise or deny all or part of any claim.

(c) *Demonstration authority.* FNS is authorized to undertake demonstration projects which test new methods designed to improve program administration and benefit delivery. FNS is authorized to initiate program research and evaluation efforts for the purposes of improving and assessing program administration and effectiveness. The procedure for initiating and conducting these projects is established in part 282.

[Amdt. 132, 43 FR 47882, Oct. 17, 1982]

§ 271.4 Delegations to State agencies for administration.

(a) *General delegation.* The State agency shall be responsible for the administration of the program within the State, including, but not limited to:

- (1) Certification of applicant households;
- (2) Issuance, control, and accountability of coupons;
- (3) Developing and maintaining complaint procedures;
- (4) Developing, conducting, and evaluating training;
- (5) Conducting performance reporting reviews;
- (6) Keeping records necessary to determine whether the program is being conducted in compliance with these regulations; and
- (7) Submitting accurate and timely financial and program reports.